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Message Text

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21
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /094 W
---------- 116908
R 160817Z NOV 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2764
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
USMISSION BERLIN UNN
USNATIO BRUSSELS 284
USUN NEW YORK 1055
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR
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SUBJECT: CHINA'S VICE PREMIER REBUFFS SOVIET OVERTURES

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REF: A) STATE 279146, B) MOSCOW 17836 (NOTAL)

1. CHINESE VICE-PREMIER LI HISEN-NIEN, SPEAKING AT A NOVEMBER 15 BANQUET FOR VISITING CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT JEAN BOKASSA, FIRMLY BATTED DOWN RECENT SOVIET GESTURES AIMED AT IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. LI ACCUSED THE SOVIETS OF "CONTINUING TO SLANDER AND THREATEN CHINA" WHILE "CREATING FALSE IMPRESSIONS OF RELAXATION OF RELATIONS". LI ADDED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD EVEN ARRANGANTLYDEMANDED THAT "CHINA CHANGE ITS POLICY". LI CALLED THIS "WISHFUL THINKING AND DAY-DREAMING", AND VOWED THAT CHINA "WILL CONTINUE TO UNSWERVINGLY IMPLEMENT THE REVOLUTIONARY LINE AND POLICIES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS LAID DOWN BY CHAIRMAN MAO PERSONALLY", A REFERENCE TO CHINA'S OPENING TO THE WEST AND PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES. THIS MENTION OF MAO'S PERSONAL IMPRIMATUR ON THE PRC'S PRESENT FOREIGN POLICY LINE IMPLICITLY UNDER-SCORES THE PRO-WESTERN SIDE OF LI'S ANTI-SOVIET REMARKS.

2. THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN THEIR NATIONAL DAY REMAKRS NOVEMBER 5 TO BE AS NON-OFFENSIVE TO THE CHINESE AS POSSIBLE AND THEREBY FORESTALL A PRC WALK-OUT (REF B), BY CONTRAST, HOWEVER, LI'S SPEECH SEEMED INTENTIONALLY AIMED AT PROVOKING A SOVIET WALK-OUT AND THROUGHLY DISCREDITIONG SOVIET SIGNALS OF A DESIRE TO REDUCE TENSION IN THE POST-MAO ERA. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE SOVIETS AND DIPLOMATS FROM SEVEN OTHER PRO-MOSCOW COUNTRIES NEVER ACUTUALLY HEARD LI'S SPEECH-THEY WALKED OUT EARLIER IN PROTEST AT OTHER REMARKS MADE BY LI.
CROSS

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